Saint Paul Planning Commission City Hall Conference Center 15 Kellogg Boulevard West

Minutes November 14, 2008

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, November 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Mmes. Donnelly-Cohen, Lu, Morton; Smitten, Wencl; and

Present: Messrs. Alton, Barrera, Bellus, Commers, Goodlow, Johnson, Kramer, Nelson,

and Spaulding.

Commissioners

Absent:

Mmes. *Faricy, *Porter, and Messrs. *Gordon, *Margulies, *Ward.

*Excused

Also Present: Larry Soderholm, Planning Administrator; Allan Torstenson, Patricia James,

Penny Simison, Luis Pereira, and Sonja Butler, Department of Planning and

Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes October 17, 2008.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the minutes of October 17, 2008. Commissioner Donnelly-Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

II. Chair's Announcements

Chair Alton welcomed three visitors from Japan, here in the United States studying zoning and particularly conditional uses. Next he said that commissioners whose terms expire this year should let Larry Soderholm or Kris Fredson of the Mayor's staff know soon if you are interested in reappointment for another term. If you are not sure if your term is up, contact Larry Soderholm or Sonja Butler. Chair Alton said that it was time to start planning our annual holiday party and asked if anyone was interested in helping to plan it. Commissioners Donnelly-Cohen and Commers volunteered to help with planning a holiday party.

III. Planning Administrator's Announcements

Larry Soderholm explained that the three Japanese visitors are all PhDs who are national government officials and consulting professors who have a role in determining land use and zoning policy throughout Japan. They were here one year ago and learned about zoning practices in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. In Japan they have a standardized national zoning system with only permitted and prohibited land uses, and no conditional uses. They are here to follow up on some conditional use cases to see how these decisions are made and how the conditions are applied. They are visiting a few other metro areas as well. Mr. Soderholm also reported on planning-related business at the City Council for last week and their agenda for next week.

IV. Zoning Committee

NEW BUSINESS

#08-172-494 Roger Anderson – Establishment of legal nonconforming use status as a roominghouse for 14 residents. 2098 Como Avenue, SE intersection of Raymond. (*Josh Williams*, 651/266-6659)

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Morton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the establishment of legal nonconforming use status subject to additional conditions. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

#08-177-989 Transition Homes – Conditional Use Permit for transitional housing for 21 residents. 1609 Jackson Street, SW corner at Idaho. (*Luis Pereira*, 651/266-6591)

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Morton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the conditional use permit subject to additional conditions. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

V. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Chair Donnelly-Cohen announced that the committee's meeting start time has changed from 4:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The meetings will be a half hour longer because of the volume of work to get the comp plan chapters done on schedule.

Introduction and Implementation Sections – Set public hearing on December 19, 2008.

Penny Simison, PED staff, said the Comprehensive Planning Committee reviewed these two sections of the plan at its last meeting. She apologized that she forgot to send hard copies in the Planning Commission's packet.

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Donnelly-Cohen moved the Comprehensive Planning Committee's recommendation to release the Introduction and Implementation Sections for public review and set a public hearing for December 19, 2008. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Schedule for Completion of Comprehensive Plan – Staff presentation.

Penny Simison distributed a letter from the Metropolitan Council extending the City's deadline for submission of the Comprehensive Plan to May 25, 2009, and her draft schedule for completing Commission and City Council review of the chapters. She noted that the letter from the Metropolitan Council states the Council will not execute any Livable Communities grant agreements for projects located in cities that have not submitted plan updates that are complete for review. The City has four Livable Communities applications pending at the Metropolitan Council and additional applications for brownfield cleanup funding. Grant awards are expected in December. Some Saint Paul projects will probably be funded. She assumes that it might take a month or more to execute a funding agreement, so the City's plan submission would be about a month behind, if we can hold to the aggressive schedule as proposed.

Chair Alton asked if the letter meant that even though we received the extension, they still would not execute funding agreements with the City until our plans have been submitted and deemed complete. Ms. Simison said that is her understanding, but she is going to have another conversation with the Metropolitan Council's liaison staff to make sure. The May 25th deadline is for formal review by the Metropolitan Council. Staff has already given them our plan in its public review form for their informal review. She added that the City Council review schedule is tentative; staff does not know if the Council will want to hold public hearings on the individual chapters. If so, the schedule will be revised.

Commissioner Smitten asked if the Metropolitan Council is ranking the Livable Communities applications differently if a city does not have a comprehensive plan submitted for formal review. Ms. Simison responded that, as she understands it, the ranking and selection of applications are not affected, only the execution of funding agreements. The risk is that funding would be delayed, not lost.

Mr. Soderholm added that the staff is fully committed to meeting the schedule so that any delay in funding would be minimal.

VI. Neighborhood Planning Committee

Chair Wencl had no report.

VII. Communications Committee

Chair Smitten had no report.

VIII. Informational Presentation

<u>Twin Cities Compass Annual Report on Metro Area Indicators and Trends</u> – Staff review of 2008 report. (*Larry Soderholm*, 651/266-6575)

Mr. Soderholm reminded the Planning Commission that six months ago a representative from Wilder Research came and talked about the Twin Cities Compass data project for the metropolitan area. Now they have announced their first annual summary of findings. Enclosed in the packet is a chart with symbols showing major findings. The left column shows the categories of indicators (civic engagement, early childhood, economy/workforce, education, etc. The next column says whether our metro area is getting better or worse. The third column shows how we compare with other metro areas, and the fourth column indicates whether there are serious disparities by place, race, or income. For example, our metro area scores high on civic engagement and transportation. But we are slipping a bit economically. Our education system is generally good, but it continues to show large disparities. We are significantly worse than the national average as green house gas emitters.

Commissioner Bellus asked how current their data is. What is the last year for their trends?

Mr. Soderholm said most of it is through 2006, but they use many different data sources to track the complete set of indicators. When you can go to the web site, you can click on the source of the data used for each indicator.

Commissioner Smitten wanted to know if they are continuing to track this information.

Mr. Soderholm said yes, this is an ongoing program. The compilation of data is to serve a consortium of sponsoring foundations, which have ongoing needs for research to guide their programs. Twin Cities Compass does not intend to publish reports; instead the data they collect is all online and continuously updated on their web page at tccompass.org. Everyone is encouraged to go to this web site and use the data.

	Task Force Reports	
	None	
IX.	Old Business	
	None	
X.	New Business	
	None	
XI.	Adjournment	
	Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.	
Recorded and prepared by Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary Planning and Economic Development Department, City of Saint Paul		
Respectfully submitted, Approved		Approved
respec	traily submitted,	(Date)
Larry Soderholm, AICP Planning Administrator		Marilyn Porter Secretary of the Planning Commission
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